

## **Charter of Rights for Members of Waterford Youth Arts.**

- You have the right to be treated fairly and with respect regardless of your age, gender, race, ethnicity, faith, ability or sexuality.
- You have the right to feel safe and not be bullied. This includes outside of workshops where other members interact with you e.g. in school, or on the internet. Otherwise you won't feel safe coming to WYA
- You have the right to complain
- The right to express your views and have your opinions taken seriously.
- You have the right to take part in important decisions that affect the future of WYA
- You have the right to special help if you have particular problems or if you have a disability.
- As a member of WYA you are expected to: commit to the creative process; learn new creative skills; have fun and take on leadership within the organisation.

All members have these rights; they are unconditional and cannot be taken away. However you also have the responsibility to respect other people's rights, their values and culture.

If you feel your rights have not been upheld or you have in any way been treated unfairly you can speak to any adult within WYA including volunteers, staff or tutors and the matter will be followed through. All complaints will be investigated by staff and / Management Committee and appropriate action will take place. Throughout this process you will be kept informed.

Members' right, as with any doctrine of rights, also entails responsibilities. A right and a responsibility go hand in hand. You, as a member of WYA have the responsibility to ensure that this charter and constitution of members is upheld. You also have the responsibility to contribute to WYA be it in a creative medium or otherwise. You have the responsibility to uphold WYA's aims and hold yourself with the utmost decorum when representing WYA at events, national, international or indeed within the organisation itself.

\*All NEW members must receive this charter when they join and all tutors must go over this charter sometime in the first three weeks of all workshop terms.

**Reviewed March 2023**